



A Newsletter for Recycling Coordinators

## DHEC wins U.S. EPA WasteWise awards

*By Elizabeth Rosinski*

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) recently received two WasteWise awards, including State Government and Endorser of the Year, from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for its on-going efforts to reduce waste, increase recycling and buy recycled products.

The U.S. EPA named DHEC WasteWise Endorser of the Year for its efforts to reduce office waste while encouraging other state agencies and entities to do the same. It also was recognized for incorporating WasteWise into South Carolina's newly formed technical assistance partnership, the Business Recycling Assistance Program (B-RAP).

"When talking with local businesses, DHEC often suggests the benefits of

becoming a WasteWise member," said the U.S. EPA. "The department celebrated America Recycles Day and Earth Day and promoted the ideas of reducing waste and buying recycled at various conferences and training sessions throughout the past year, as well as within its own offices at employee meetings."

DHEC also was honored as a program champion in the government category.

"DHEC has reduced waste so effectively it is paying the same tipping fees today that it did in 1993," the U.S. EPA noted. "This escape from inflation results from the state's efforts to continuously increase levels of both waste prevention and recycling."

DHEC avoids a great deal of waste through reductions in paper use. The organization stresses the importance of double-sided printing within the office and has switched to e-mail for routine communication. DHEC no longer prints important information, such as phone numbers and directories, instead including it on the agency's Intranet.

DHEC also received commendations for its recycling and green purchasing efforts. The department recycled 150 tons of colored paper and 34 tons of other paper products, along with large quantities of plastic, aluminum, glass, wood and computers in 2001. The agency also purchased \$800,000 worth of products made from recycled

material during the year. DHEC further requested that vendors use less packaging for office supplies and established a buy recycled policy that gives a 7.5 percent price preference to recycled-content materials.

WasteWise is a free, voluntary U.S. EPA program that helps partners eliminate costly municipal solid waste through waste reduction and recycling. WasteWise is a flexible program that allows participants to design their own solid waste reduction programs and is tailored to fit their needs.

Any organization within the United States may join the program. Large and small businesses from any industry sector are welcome to participate. Institutions, such as hospitals and universities, non-profits, and others, as well as state, local and tribal governments, are eligible to participate. There is no fee for membership.

DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling serves as the state contact for WasteWise in South Carolina. For more information, contact Eric Melaro at [melaroew@dhec.state.sc.us](mailto:melaroew@dhec.state.sc.us) or call (803) 896-4231.

The WasteWise awards will be presented to DHEC during an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. later this year.

*Elizabeth Rosinski is editor of "South Carolina Recycles."*

### Inside...

Editor's Focus .....	2
S.C. business recycling tops agenda at Recycling Coordinators' Workshop .....	3
South Carolina's First Lady kicks off America Recycles Day campaign .....	4
National Recycling Coalition Conference covers wide spectrum of solid waste issues .....	5
Programs announce staff changes ...	6
Bergstrand receives NAHMMMA President's Special Service Award ....	6
RC Calendar .....	7

## EDITOR'S FOCUS

**B**udget crisis. How many of us have grown weary of those two words? Despite the upswing in the economy, those words continue to permeate throughout our jobs. Whether it is dealing with a shortfall in federal or state grant funding or decreasing revenues at the local level, the result may be leaving vacant positions unfilled or not being able to expand an existing recycling program. While the budget issue may eventually disappear, all of us need to look at and reconsider how we run our solid waste programs.

In 1991, when the Solid Waste Policy and Management Act was passed, federal and state grant funding was relatively plentiful. Cities and counties used grant funds to help replace green boxes with recycling drop-off centers or to offer their residents curbside programs.

Grants allowed local governments to establish one of the nation's best used oil recycling programs and offered South Carolinians a choice of more than 400 sites to take their recyclables – which has led to a 28 percent recycling rate, higher than the national average. Since then, however, grant funding from many sources has decreased or even disappeared, and local governments are left looking for alternative means of financial support.

To better understand how budget issues are affecting recycling coordinators, I made a few calls. Opinions were split. Some coordinators depend on outside funding (in this case grants from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control) to support their on-going recycling programs. Whether for maintenance and repair, expansion or regionalization, they need outside funding to sustain these programs. Everyone I called noted that recycling programs would not cease, but extra services offered may stop or not be implemented.

Conversely, other local governments use grant funding to jump start their recycling efforts but do not rely solely on this money to maintain their program. They are self-sustaining. In good years, revenues keep overhead down, but in bad years, the reserve helps them maintain their program. One recycling coordinator noted that markets should sustain recycling programs, not grants. Perhaps this should be our goal.

In truth, grant funding may never be what it once was. As recycling programs face limited funds, attention should be focused on policies redistributing financial responsibility. This means we have to look at national, regional and local policies to encourage producer and consumer responsibility. Examples include advance disposal fees, user fees and Pay-As-You-Throw programs.

And while developing a recycling program that sustains itself won't happen overnight, it is a goal that we must all set for ourselves to offset this budget crisis.

*Elizabeth V. Rosinski*

*Elizabeth Rosinski, Editor*

## South Carolina Recycles

**Editor:**  
Elizabeth Rosinski

**Assistant Editor:**  
Richard Chesley

**Layout/Design:**  
Gregg Glymph

**Director, DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling:**  
William W. Culler

**"South Carolina Recycles,"**  
Volume 1, Issue 2, is published quarterly by DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling.

**SAVE NATURAL RESOURCES**  
by requesting your copy of  
**"South Carolina Recycles"**  
electronically. Please call 1-800-768-7348 to receive your next issue by e-mail.



**Office of Solid Waste  
Reduction and Recycling**  
**1-800-768-7348**  
[www.scdhec.net/recycle](http://www.scdhec.net/recycle)

This publication is printed on  
**RECYCLED** content paper.



# S.C. business recycling tops agenda at Recycling Coordinators' Workshop

*By Elizabeth Rosinski*

About 75 recycling professionals attended a business recycling workshop on August 15-16 in Conway. The event was sponsored by DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, the Horry County Solid Waste Authority and the Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project.

Karen Owens with the Recycling Market Development Advisory Council (RMDAC) introduced a new business recycling guidebook entitled "It's Everyone's Business: A How-To Guide for Implementing Waste Reduction Programs for South Carolina Businesses" and encouraged recycling coordinators to promote the Business Recycling Assistance Program (B-RAP). This free, non-regulatory service helps businesses start waste reduction and recycling programs. To obtain a copy of the guide, call 1-800-768-7348 or visit [www.scdhec.net/brap](http://www.scdhec.net/brap).

Ted Campbell, RMDAC director and president of the Carolina Recycling Association (CRA), provided updates on several upcoming budget issues and asked for the support of local government on issues such as e-waste and bottle bill legislation. An electronics bill will be reissued in the North Carolina legislature placing a fee on cathode ray tubes (CRTs); this bill is similar to the ones that generate revenue for recycling used oil and tires in South Carolina. Campbell also encouraged all recycling coordinators to join the CRA.

Donna Sightler, Greenwood County recycling coordinator, offered good advice to recycling coordinators who want to help businesses and organizations start effective recycling programs during her "Dumpster Dive" presentation. She provided the following tips:

- When touring a facility or business, watch for waste reduction and reuse opportunities.
- Look in the dumpster to see the materials currently being sent to the landfill. Can they be recycled instead?
- Ask the business to see their purchasing, production and hauler records. They can provide valuable information for determining which materials to divert from the landfill.
- Start simple. When choosing materials, consider markets, prices and volume.



*About 75 recycling professionals from across the state attended the annual Recycling Coordinators' Workshop in Conway on August 15-16.*



"If you don't measure it, it never happened," said Scott Courtney with Alcoa-Mt. Holly during the opening remarks of his presentation on recycling and reporting waste management in businesses. Courtney created a computer spreadsheet that allows businesses to easily track their recycled waste streams. Part of Alcoa-Mt. Holly's success began with a waste reduction statement that appears on all purchasing contracts, letting vendors know what they expect from their services.

Courtney provided useful information for making a recycling and waste reduction program easy to implement and to educate employees. His recommendations and samples of his recording and reporting forms are located in Appendix II of "It's Everyone's Business."

Courtney's spreadsheet program also is available by e-mail ([Scott\\_Courtney@MtHolly.com](mailto:Scott_Courtney@MtHolly.com)). The program closely follows DHEC's Solid Waste Management Annual Report and is a valuable tool for determining how much waste business and industry are generating, disposing and diverting.

Michael Talbert with Mecklenburg County, N.C. gave a presentation on the mandatory recycling ordinance that went into effect in January of this year. Mecklenburg County is the largest waste generator in North Carolina.

*See RC Workshop, page 5*



# South Carolina's First Lady kicks off America Recycles Day campaign

*By Holly Storey*

First Lady Rachel Hodges officially kicked off America Recycles Day (ARD) in South Carolina during a press conference on the State House grounds on September 24. She presented a proclamation signed by Governor Jim Hodges declaring November 15, 2002 as South Carolina Recycles Day and asking South Carolinians to celebrate America Recycles Day by reducing waste and recycling.

Wanda Crotwell, assistant to the Commissioner for the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, spoke about the positive impact recycling is making in South Carolina. In addition, students from Airport High School in Columbia sang a song entitled "America Recycles Day." The tune and lyrics were written by Richard Middleton, president of Circle Environmental and member of the ARD in South Carolina Statewide Steering Committee. The First Lady concluded the event by reading a children's book entitled "Ready, Set, Recycle" to a group of second-graders from Windsor Elementary School in Columbia.

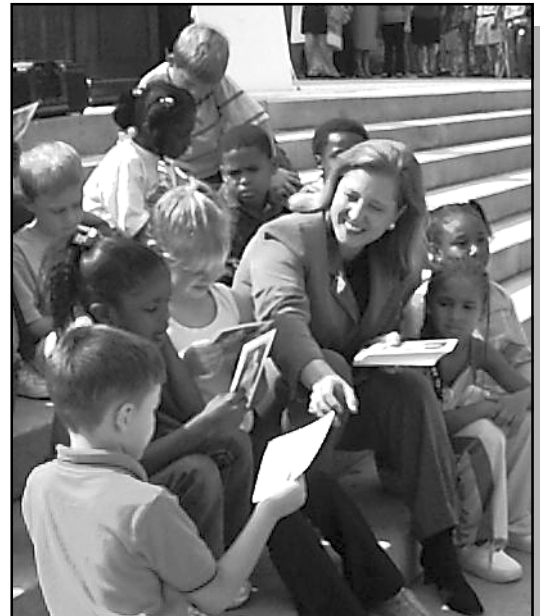
More events are scheduled throughout the state preceding America Recycles Day on November 15. Keep the Midlands Beautiful will host a Clean Your Files Workshop for local businesses on October 22. The workshop will provide participants with information for starting and maintaining a recycling program. For more information about this event, call **(803) 733-1139** or visit **[www.KeepTheMidlandsBeautiful.com](http://www.KeepTheMidlandsBeautiful.com)**.

Two Recycling Adventures, hands-on recycling events for school children, also are scheduled for November 8 at Fort Jackson in Columbia and November 15 at the York County Museum in Rock Hill.

ARD is a national celebration set annually on November 15 to remind us that recycling is working and the important role each of us plays in keeping it working. This year's theme is "Make Every Day America Recycles Day."

ARD promotional items are still available for recycling coordinators to distribute in your area. These items include challenge cards, posters, essay brochures and bookmarks. The latter are provided by the National ARD Board of Directors. They were designed and printed in South Carolina and will be distributed to 500,000 people across the United States as part of the national ARD celebration. Please call the recycling hot line at **1-800-768-7348** to request these items.

*Holly Storey is the chairperson of the America Recycles Day in South Carolina Statewide Steering Committee. She also serves as one of two state representatives for the National America Recycles Day Board of Directors.*



*South Carolina's First Lady, Rachel Hodges, greets students from Windsor Elementary School after a press conference on the steps of the State House in Columbia. She also read a story about the importance of recycling to the students and signed a giant challenge card, pledging to recycle more and buy recycled content products.*



*Students from Airport High School sang a song about America Recycles Day during the press conference. The music and lyrics were written by Richard Middleton of Circle Environmental, a member of the ARD in S.C. Statewide Steering Committee.*

# National Recycling Coalition Conference covers wide spectrum of solid waste issues

*By Eric Melaro*

The National Recycling Coalition (NRC) held its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Congress and Exposition in Austin, Texas on September 8-11.

More than 900 recycling professionals, from both the U.S. and abroad, attended the event. Representing South Carolina were Marilyn Muckenfuss, S.C. Recycling Teacher of the Year; Leslie Hatchell, York County; Vickie Williams, Greenville County; Melissa Grant, Oconee County; Christine Risher von Kolnitz, MUSC; and Holly Storey and Eric Melaro, DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling.

Attendees were welcomed to Austin with a Texas-style reception held on an 800-acre ranch built atop an old landfill. The evening was complete with gourmet western grub, live entertainment, buffalo chip tossin', trick ropin'



*Marilyn Muckenfuss (center), S.C. Recycling Teacher of the Year, recently attended the National Recycling Coalition's Annual Congress in Texas. Also pictured (from left) are other South Carolina participants: Leslie Hatchell; Holly Storey; Muckenfuss; Melissa Grant; and Eric Melaro.*

and a chance to have pictures taken on a live longhorn steer.

The Keynote Speaker, Marianne Horinko of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, unveiled the U.S. EPA's new Resource Conservation Challenge. It challenges everyone to ask, "What can you save today?"

Concurrent sessions running throughout the Congress covered topics ranging from the growing need to justify the

importance of recycling to market development to maximum waste reduction in the commercial sector. Philadelphia has instituted a fines and rewards program to prompt individuals to recycle while Illinois has encouraged market development by emphasizing recycling as big business. A representative from Target explained the company's waste reduction policies – including the sale of 80 percent of their unsold products to Goodwill at very reduced prices and food bank donations. Additional sessions focused on advancing college and university recycling programs, composting initiatives, environmentally friendly procurement, waste reduction in urban and rural settings and electronics recycling programs.

The popular education tabletops/networking breakfast provided attendees an opportunity to informally network and share approaches to educating students and adults. Over 125 exhibitors showcased their products and materials for attendees in the Exposition Hall. Attendees watched a fashion show from the Pulp Fashion Collection. Designs included a glass evening gown made from 12,000 pieces of crushed glass, the recycling "fiesta outfit" made from Target bags and charitable donations and the rusty nail dress made from old nails sewn to a cocktail dress made from canvas remnants.

Next year's NRC Annual Congress will be held September 14-17, 2003 in Baltimore, MD.

*Eric Melaro is the technical assistance coordinator for DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling.*

## **RC Workshop,** *continued from page 3*

The county generates one-eighth of the state's entire waste stream. It's waste almost doubled between 1992 (650,910 tons) and 1999 (1,214,764 tons).

Curbside recycling programs in Mecklenburg County only manage residential waste which represents about 22 percent of the total waste stream. The rest is generated by non-residential sources (construction, commercial businesses, industries, government and other institutional sources). Consequently, the county has instituted a variety of programs to assist businesses with recycling and waste reduction.

Recycling coordinators also participated in a round-table session to discuss similar recycling issues. Participants addressed recycling markets, including economics and product stewardship, and trimming waste disposal fees as motivation for beginning a business recycling program.

## Programs announce staff changes

The following is current information about personnel changes in South Carolina recycling programs.

### NEW STAFF

**Eric Melaro**, formerly of DHEC's Division of Health Hazard Evaluation, has joined the Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling. He replaces **Donna Bowman** who accepted a teaching position at Pelion High School. Melaro's new duties include technical assistance projects such as used oil, tires, construction and demolition debris and Pay-As-You-Throw, and serving as the Office's contact for the Business Recycling Assistance Program (B-RAP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WasteWise program. In addition, **Holly Storey** will resume her duties as education coordinator, managing America Recycles Day, Love A Tree South Carolina, Energy 2 Learn, the "Action for a cleaner tomorrow" environmental curriculum supplement as well as the Green Driver Project and Green Rider Program.

**Ed Marr** has recently been hired by the City of Greenville as the new solid waste administrator. He will serve as the recycling coordinator until one is hired later this fall. Other new recycling coordinators include **Barbara Rogers** for Abbeville County, **Dana Sellers** for Chesterfield County and **Lisa Ward** for Union County.

### CHANGES

**Mary Lynn Eaddy**, Spartanburg County, has moved to the landfill facility. The address is 595 Little Mountain Road, Wellford, SC 29385. She can be reached at (864) 439-5220.

### RETIREMENTS

**Rick Reeves**, Pickens County, and **Dana McKnight**, City of Rock Hill, have retired.

### RESIGNATIONS

**Linda Slater** has resigned from Charleston County to accept a project officer's position within the county. **Cynthia Geathers**, Georgetown County, and **Richard Zarella**, Williamsburg County, have resigned as recycling coordinators.

## Bergstrand receives NAHMMMA President's Special Service Award

*By Barry Connell*

Pam Bergstrand, with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, recently was honored with the President's Award for Special Service from the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association (NAHMMMA).



*Bergstrand*

This award honors a member who has contributed in unique ways to the organization. NAHMMMA's President, Judi Frantz, presented the award to Bergstrand at the 2002 Hazardous Materials Management Conference at the Hotel-Intercontinental Dallas on September 4. As NAHMMMA's Secretary, Bergstrand has devoted much of her time to the organization. She has served on the Awards Committee, as well as co-chaired the Conference Committee. Her tireless efforts are a contributing factor to NAHMMMA's success.

Other outstanding people, programs and policies dedicated to pollution prevention and the reduction of hazardous components entering municipal solid waste streams were honored as well. The event was sponsored by NAHMMMA in cooperation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. It was the seventeenth annual conference held to recognize and promote exemplary pollution prevention initiatives.

NAHMMMA is a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing hazardous materials entering municipal waste streams from households, businesses, industries and other entities. Membership-based, the association is comprised of individuals from government, business and the environmental community who are committed to pollution prevention.

Bergstrand has assisted local governments, including schools and universities, with information for managing household hazardous materials (HHM). If you have questions about HHM in your community, contact Bergstrand at [bergstpp@dhec.state.sc.us](mailto:bergstpp@dhec.state.sc.us) or call 1-800-768-7348.

*Barry Connell is a contributing writer for the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association.*



## RC Calendar: October–November 2002

October 1 .....	<b>SOLID WASTE ANNUAL REPORT DUE</b> to Celeste Duckett
October 3 .....	<b>Green Driver Project Presentation</b> , Northwestern High School, York County
October 4 .....	<b>Green Building Workshop</b> , Charleston
October 7 .....	<b>"Action for a cleaner tomorrow" (Action) Curriculum Training</b> , Pickens County School District
October 7-8 .....	<b>Green Driver Project Presentation</b> , Marion High School, Marion County
October 11 .....	<b>"Action" Training</b> , Low Country HUB Day, Beaufort County
October 14 .....	<b>"Action" Training</b> , Holly Hill Elementary School, Orangeburg County
October 15 .....	<b>FIRST QUARTER</b> (July 1 – September 30) <b>GRANT REPORTS DUE</b>
October 16 .....	<b>Green Driver Project Presentation</b> , Mullins High School, Marion County
October 22 .....	<b>Clean Your Files Workshop</b> , Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce
October 28 .....	<b>"Action" Training</b> , Anderson College
October 29 ..	<b>Green Driver Project Presentation</b> , Chapman High School, Greenville County
November 1 .....	<b>RECYCLE GUYS AWARDS NOMINATIONS DUE</b>
November 7 .....	<b>One-Day Large-Scale Composting Training</b> , Rock Hill
November 8 ..	<b>America Recycles Day (ARD) Recycling Adventure</b> , Fort Jackson, Columbia
November 9 .....	<b>ARD Fair</b> , Chau Ram County Park, Oconee County
November 12-15 ..	<b>Large-Scale Composting Operator Training</b> , Location to be announced
November 15 .....	<b>America Recycles Day</b>
November 15 .....	<b>ARD Recycling Adventure</b> , York County Museum, Rock Hill
November 15 .....	<b>ARD Clemson Asphalt-Rubber Technology Service Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony</b> , Clemson University
November 15 .....	<b>ARD Office Recycling Drop-Off</b> , Columbia
November 15 .....	<b>ARD RECYCLING FAMILY, TEACHER &amp; SCHOOL AWARD ESSAYS DUE</b>
November 19 .....	<b>Recycling Market Development Advisory Council Meeting</b> , S.C. Department of Commerce, Columbia
November 19 .....	<b>Green Driver Project Presentation</b> , Northwestern High School, York County
November 22 .....	<b>ARD Challenge Cards Due</b> to DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling
November 26 .....	<b>State ARD Challenge Card Drawing</b>

**NOTE:** Recycling coordinators are encouraged to attend "Action" trainings and Green Driver Project presentations that take place in their county. It is a good opportunity to network with teachers and students in the community. To learn more, call Angie Perry at 1-800-326-2630.

## 'Behind the Oil Change' video available

A new video outlining the environmental impact of driving is now available from DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling.

"DHEC 1: Behind the Oil Change" is a 14-minute video highlighting the rise and fall of one student's efforts to properly handle used oil. The video emphasizes the importance of recycling used motor oil, maintaining vehicles, conserving energy, protecting the air and water, preventing litter and driving safely. The video is fun and informative, and parodies the popular teen television programs "Dawson's Creek" and "VH1: Behind the Music." The narrator of the latter program lends his voice to the DHEC video as well.

"DHEC 1: Behind the Oil Change" is the centerpiece of the "Green Driver Project," a new program targeting students in high school driver education classes. If you would like to receive a copy for your library, please call 1-800-768-7348 or e-mail [storeyhl@dhec.state.sc.us](mailto:storeyhl@dhec.state.sc.us).

## In defense of recycling...

### 1. Recycling costs too much.

- Well-run recycling programs cost less than landfills and incinerators.
- The more people recycle, the cheaper it gets.
- Recycling helps families save money, especially in communities with pay-as-you-throw programs.
- Recycling generates revenue to help pay for itself, while incineration and landfilling do not.

### 2. Recycling should pay for itself.

- Landfills and incinerators don't pay for themselves; in fact they cost more than recycling programs.
- Recycling creates more than 1 million U.S. jobs in recycled product manufacturing alone.<sup>1</sup>
- Hundreds of companies, including Hewlett Packard, Bank of America and the U.S. Postal Service, have saved millions of dollars through their recycling programs.
- Through recycling, the U.S. is saving enough energy to provide electricity for 9 million homes per year.<sup>2</sup>

### 3. If recycling makes sense, the free market will make it happen.

- Government supports lots of services that the free market wouldn't provide, such as the delivery of running water, electricity and mail to our homes.
- Unlike most public services, recycling does function within the market economy, and quite successfully.
- If the market was truly free, long-standing subsidies that favor virgin materials and landfills would not exist, and recycling could compete on a level playing field.

**STATISTICAL SOURCES:** *The National Recycling Coalition*, <sup>1</sup>*Office of the Federal Environmental Executive* and <sup>2</sup>*Environmental Defense*.

# Office's Resource Center offers new recycling publications for children

DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling's (Office) Resource Center provides a variety of educational materials, posters, books, videos, technical assistance guides and other resources. The following children's books are new and available for loan:

- "Bob's Recycling Day" (Bob the Builder) by Annie Auerbach
- "The Garbage Monster" by Joni Sensel
- "Sir Johnny's Recycling Adventure" and "Johnny and the Old Oak Tree" by Rachael Peterpaul Paulson

- "The Great Trash Bash" by Loreen Leedy

For recycling coordinators and other solid waste staff, these new publications are available for loan:

- "The Bag Book: Over 500 Great Uses and Reuses for Paper, Plastic and Other Bags to Organize and Enhance Your Life" by Vickie Lansky
- "The Cartoon Guide to the Environment" by Larry Ganick

- "Choose to Reuse: An Encyclopedia of Services, Businesses, Tools and Charitable Programs That Facilitate Reuse" by Nikki and David Goldbeck

- "Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things" by William McDonough and Michael Braungart

- "Rubbish: The Archaeology of Garbage" by William Rathje and Cullen Murphy

"For Your Information" Fact Sheets also are available, covering a variety of recycling topics. Please call **1-800-768-7348** or visit our Web site at [www.scdhec.net/recycle](http://www.scdhec.net/recycle) for more information.

**1-800-768-7348 ● [www.scdhec.net/recycle](http://www.scdhec.net/recycle)**



DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling  
2600 Bull Street ● Columbia, SC 29201-1708